

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a request for participation in the Patent Prosecution Highway program. Entry and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 were previously pending in the present application. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to place the claims of the present application in direct correspondence with the claims of Japanese National Stage Application No. JP 2006-519466. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein; and claims 16-27 have been added.

Claims 16-27 correspond directly to the claims of Japanese National Stage Application No. JP 2006-519466. Japanese National Stage Application No. JP 2006-519466 is the Japanese counterpart of the present application, and the claims of Japanese National Stage Application No. JP 2006-519466 have been allowed in Japan. No new matter has been introduced by claims 16-27.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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